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Aruban snacks and where to find them



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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

U.S. cities boost security as fears spread over Israel-Hamas war despite lack of credible threats

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Police in New York, Los Angeles, and other U.S. cities increased patrols, authorities put up fencing around the U.S. Capitol and some schools closed Friday amid fears of violence inspired by the Israel-Hamas war. But law enforcement officials stressed there were no credible threats in the U.S. A former Hamas leader's call for a day of rage put American Jewish communities on edge, and sparked heightened security around houses of worship, schools and cultural institutions. The jitters were a sign of just how much the war between Israel and Hamas is reverberating around the world, striking fear in communities even in the absence of a credible threat.



Police talks to Zein Ramawi, right, leader of the Islamic Society of Bay Ridge mosque, at An-Noor Social Center on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

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Associated Press

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U.S. cities boost security as fears spread over Israel-Hamas war despite lack of credible threats

Continued from Front

Law enforcement officials said they were on high alert for violence driven by antisemitic or Islamophobic sentiments in the wake of the Hamas attack on Israel. Jewish and Muslim groups have reported an increase of hateful and threatening rhetoric on social media.

"We cannot and do not discount the possibility that Hamas or and other foreign terrorist organizations could exploit the conflict to call on their supporters to conduct attacks here on our own soil," FBI Director Christopher Wray told Jewish community leaders at a security briefing on Thursday. Ashley Reyes, 40, who is Jewish and lives in Montclair, New Jersey, said the escalating conflict has made her feel less safe and has sparked worries for her 10-year-old son.

"This is the first time in my life that I have actively thought of saying to my son, 'If someone asks you if you're Jewish or if your mom's Jewish, you say no,'" Reyes said.

At the Palestinian American Community Center in Clifton, New Jersey, Executive Director Rania Mustafa said there has been an increase in harassing phone calls, emails and messages



A worshiper donates money for the Palestinian people as people pray during a service at the Islamic Society of Bay Ridge mosque on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Associated Press

on social media. Mustafa said the group has closed its doors and is only letting in people they know or who identify themselves.

"It's been a very stressful week in all regards, from one end trying to convince the world that we're human and that our lives are as sacred as anyone else's lives and on the other end, trying to protect our own from being targeted. And protecting freedom of speech, of expressing opinions and solidarity with the Palestinian people," she said.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams told reporters Thursday that police would do extra patrols in some city neighborhoods and send additional resources to schools and houses of

worship. There has been a large police presence at protests, rallies and vigils in the city over the past week. Some synagogues have also said they would have private security guards.

Adams and New York Gov. Kathy Hochul stressed that law enforcement wasn't aware of any credible threats against the state or the city.

"We want to reiterate to New Yorkers: There's no reason to feel afraid. No one should feel they have to alter their normal lives or their routines; and indeed when we change our behavior without a serious credible threat, then we're letting the terrorists win," Hochul said.

"I want all New Yorkers

to feel confident going to a synagogue, going to school, walking in the streets of New York and throughout our state."

Meanwhile, a New York City councilmember was arrested Friday for bringing a handgun to a student demonstration supporting Palestinians.

Inna Vernikov, a Republican who is Jewish, has been among the most outspoken opponents of Palestinian activists, describing the protesters as "terrorists" while accusing them of making Jewish students feel unsafe. She was seen in photos and videos with the butt of a pistol jutting from her waistband. Vernikov did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment and messages left at her offices were not returned.

New York City's public university system has seen a wave of dueling protests in recent days following the Hamas attack on Israel and escalating war in Gaza.

Columbia University halted public access to its Manhattan campus Thursday in advance of a planned demonstration by pro-Palestinian activists and a rival pro-Israel group, saying only students, faculty and credentialed journalists would be allowed in. The

demonstrations wound up being peaceful.

In Washington, crews were seen putting metal barriers outside the Capitol Thursday evening. A Capitol police spokesperson said in an email they were "not taking any chances" even though there are no specific threats.

Las Vegas' Innovations International Charter School, which has a campus located in a former Jewish temple, said Friday they were canceling classes out of an "abundance of caution." Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, Maryland, also closed its campuses, telling parents in an email that there was no specific threat to the school, but it, too, was acting out of "an abundance of caution."

Los Angeles, police said they were reaching out to Jewish and Muslim communities and providing extra patrols. Police in Westchester County, New York, also said they were increasing patrols around schools and Jewish houses of worship on Friday. In Boston, police since the beginning of the conflict have increased their uniformed presence around religious and cultural institutions, a spokesperson said Friday. □

Theodore Roosevelt National Park to reduce bison herd from 700 to 400 animals

By JACK DURA
Associated Press

National park officials are planning to gather and reduce the bison herd in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, rehoming the animals to a number of Native American tribes.

The "bison capture" is scheduled to start on Saturday and continue through the week in the park's South Unit near Medora. The operation will be closed to the public for safety reasons.

The park plans to reduce its roughly 700 bison to 400.

The park will remove bison of differing ages.

Bison removed from the park will be rehomed and come under tribal management, InterTribal Buffalo Council Executive Director Troy Heinert told The Associated Press.

The bison will provide genetic diversity and increase numbers of existing tribal herds, he said. The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will receive bison; more bison could go to other tribes, depending on demographics, said



In this May 24, 2017, file photo, a bison grazes in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota.

Associated Press

Heinert, who is Sicangu Lakota.

A helicopter will herd bison into a holding area, with a survey of the landscape and a population count before the gathering of the bison.

The park alternates captures every year between its North Unit and South Unit, to maintain the numbers of the herd due to limited space and grazing and for herd health reasons, Deputy Superintendent Maureen McGee-Ballinger told the AP. □

Republicans pick Jim Jordan as nominee for House speaker

By LISA MASCARO, KEVIN FREKING and FARNOUSH AMIRI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans chose Rep. Jim Jordan as their new nominee for House speaker on Friday during internal voting, putting the gavel within reach of the staunch ally of GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump.

Jordan, of Ohio, will now try to unite colleagues from the deeply divided House GOP majority around his bid ahead of a floor vote, which could push to next week.

Frustrated House Republicans have been fighting bitterly over whom they should elect to replace the speaker they ousted, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, and the future direction of their party. The stalemate, now in its second week, has thrown the House into chaos, grinding all other business to a halt.

"I think Jordan would do a great job," McCarthy said ahead of the vote. "We got to get this back on track."

Attention swiftly turned to Jordan, the Judiciary Committee chairman and founder of the hard-line Freedom Caucus, as the next potential candidate after Majority Leader Steve Scalise abruptly ended his bid when it became clear holdouts would refuse to back him.

But not all Republicans want to see Jordan as speaker, second in line to the presidency. Overwhelmed and exhausted, anxious GOP lawmakers worry their House majority is being frittered away to countless rounds of infighting and some don't want to reward Jordan's wing, which sparked the turmoil.

"If we're going to be the majority party, we have to act like the majority party," said Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga., who posed a last-ditch challenge to Jordan. While the firebrand Jordan has a long list of detractors who started making their opposition known, Jordan's supporters said voting against the Trump ally during a public vote



Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and a staunch ally of former President Donald Trump, talks with reporters as House Republicans meet again behind closed doors to find a path to elect a new speaker after House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., dropped out of the race Thursday night, at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

Associated Press

on the House floor would be tougher since he is so popular and well known among more conservative GOP voters.

Heading into a morning meeting, Jordan said, "I feel real good."

Other potential speaker choices were also being floated. Some Republicans proposed simply giving Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., who was appointed interim speaker pro tempore, greater authority to lead the House for some time.

The House, without a speaker, is essentially unable to function during a time of turmoil in the U.S. and wars overseas. The political pressure increasingly is on Republicans to reverse course, reassert majority control and govern in Congress.

With the House narrowly split 221-212, with two vacancies, any nominee can lose just a few Republicans before they fail to reach the 217 majority needed in the face of opposition from Democrats, who will most

certainly back their own leader, New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries.

Absences heading into the weekend could lower the majority threshold needed, and Republicans said they were down about a dozen lawmakers as of midday Friday. No floor votes were scheduled as attendance thinned before the weekend.

In announcing his decision to withdraw from the nomination, Scalise said late Thursday the Republican majority still has to come together and "open up the House again. But clearly not everybody is there."

Asked if he would throw his support behind Jordan, Scalise said, "It's got to be people that aren't doing it for themselves and their own personal interest."

But Jordan's allies swung into high gear at a chance for the hard-right leader to seize the gavel.

"Make him the speaker. Do it tonight," said Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind. "He's the only one who can unite our

party."

Jordan also received an important nod Friday from the Republican party's campaign chairman, Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C., who made an attempt to unify the fighting factions.

"Removing Speaker Kevin McCarthy was a mistake," Hudson wrote on social media, saying the party found itself at a crossroads also blocking Scalise. "We must unite around one leader." Earlier in the week, Jordan had nominally dropped out of the race he initially lost to Scalise, 113-99, during internal balloting.

Scalise had been laboring to peel off more than 100 votes, mostly from those who backed Jordan. But many hard-liners taking their cues from Trump have dug in for a prolonged fight to replace McCarthy after his historic ouster from the job.

The holdouts argued that as majority leader, Scalise was no better choice, that he should be focusing on his health as he battles

cancer and that he was not the leader they would support.

Handfuls of Republicans announced they were sticking with Jordan, McCarthy or someone other than Scalise — including Trump, the former president. The position as House speaker does not need to go to a member of Congress.

Trump, the early front-runner for the 2024 GOP presidential nomination, repeatedly discussed Scalise's health during a radio interview that aired Thursday.

Scalise has been diagnosed with a form of blood cancer known as multiple myeloma and is being treated, but he has also said he was definitely up for the speaker's job.

On Friday, another California Republican, Rep. Tom McClintock, had introduced a motion to reinstate McCarthy during the morning meeting, but it was shelved.

"I just told them, no, let's not do that," McCarthy said afterward. "Let's walk through this and have an election."

The situation is not fully different from the start of the year, when McCarthy faced a similar backlash from a different group of far-right holdouts who ultimately gave their votes to elect him speaker, then engineered his historic downfall.

But the math this time is even more daunting, and the problematic political dynamic is only worsening. Exasperated Democrats, who have been waiting for the Republican majority to recover from McCarthy's ouster, urged them to figure it out.

"The House Democrats have continued to make clear that we are ready, willing and able to find a bipartisan path forward," Jeffries said, including doing away with the rule that allows a single lawmaker to force a vote against the speaker. "But we need traditional Republicans to break from the extremists and partner with us." □

Pennsylvania seeks to expand public awareness of its Indigenous culture and history

BETHLEHEM, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania's absence of federally recognized tribal nations means there's been an incomplete picture of its Native American culture and history, officials said Friday as they announced a grant-funded program designed to change that. The Pennsylvania Tourism Office, in partnership with Lehigh University's Institute for Indigenous Studies and with input from federally recognized tribes, will develop a plan to highlight the state's Indigenous stories, culture and history through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Pennsylvania is behind other states in its consideration of Indigenous culture and history, compared with Midwestern states, said Jason Hale, a researcher from the Institute for Indigenous Studies, Lehigh University. Hale is from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation near Mayetta, Kansas. The grant will allow them to change that. "It comes right under the



Jason Hale, center with drum, from the Institute for Indigenous Studies at Lehigh University, sings an indigenous song during a ceremony announcing the Indigenous Peoples Cultural and Heritage Tourism Initiative, Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

Associated Press

mission of what we do to connect and to help Indigenous tribal nations grow and become healthier," he said, noting that the institute is within the College of Health, in which the research team works to address health and educational disparities among Native Americans. "So we feel this is a great start and lays the foundation for what we can do as an institute working with

Lehigh University within our College of Health and in the Greater Lehigh Valley community," he said. Tribal nations in Pennsylvania have largely been erased, and some, such as the Susquehannock and Monongahela peoples, do not exist any longer, said Andrea Lowery, executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Some tribal nations con-

sider Pennsylvania an ancestral homeland despite having been forced out of the state and despite the history of oppression and marginalization, she said. "There's a lot we've learned about Native American history in Pennsylvania through archaeological evidence and historic documents, but this does not present a complete picture," she said. "The tribes are keepers of their culture, their language, their history. And their interpretation of this history is critical to try to understand Pennsylvania." Lehigh University's Bethlehem campus is home to the Delaware Nation of Oklahoma's extension Tribal Historic Preservation Office, which is part of their Lenape homelands. The Delaware Nation of Oklahoma will consult on the project, officials said. Over the next two years, the Institute for Indigenous Studies will convene a group of scholars and tribal members to outline specific projects. The tourism office will then seek to bring

the projects to fruition, said Carrie Fischer Lepore, deputy secretary of tourism at the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. "Right now, Indigenous nations receive almost no representation in Pennsylvania culture, and that's a mistake," she said during a news conference Friday at Lehigh University, "because Pennsylvania is steeped in Indigenous history, a rich history of food, travel, folklore and so much more." The hope is that some of the projects will be completed in time for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, she added. The grant is for \$100,000, and the tourism office is contributing another \$100,000. The history of Pennsylvania's Native peoples has often been framed in terms of their interactions with Europeans, and particularly the conflicts that stemmed from the Europeans' arrival. The new grant-funded initiative aims to widen the lens. □

The Supreme Court avoided disaster when a chunk of marble fell in a courtyard used by the justices

By **MARK SHERMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court avoided a catastrophic accident last year when a piece of marble at least 2 feet long crashed to the ground in an interior courtyard used by the justices and their aides, according to several court employees. The incident, which the court still fails to acknowledge publicly, took place in the tense spring of 2022, as the court already was dealing with death threats and other security concerns and the justices were putting the final touches on their stunning decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Justice Elena Kagan and her law clerks had been in the courtyard earlier in the day, the employees said. No one was injured when

the marble fell, the employees said. The piece was easily big enough to have seriously injured someone, they said. It was much larger than the basketball-sized chunk that fell near the court's front entrance in 2005. The weight of the marble that fell is unknown, but the Georgia marble used in the court's four interior courtyards weighs about 170 pounds per cubic foot, according to Polycor, which owns the quarry that provided the marble. The employees spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because court policy forbids all but a small number of employees from speaking to reporters on the record. Supreme Court spokeswoman Patricia McCabe would not provide any de-



The Supreme Court is seen at sundown in Washington, on Nov. 6, 2020.

Associated Press

tails about the incident or even confirm that it had taken place. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the building was closed at the time to the public and members of the news media who regularly cover the court. Each of the four courtyards

has fountains and columns that resemble those on the outside of the building. There are tables and chairs where employees can have lunch or work on nice days. The courtyards are closed for restoration work that could cost nearly \$35 mil-

lion, budget requests to Congress show. The court had planned to redo the courtyards well before the marble fell. The work has been ongoing, mostly in the evening after court workers have left for the day. In addition to restoring the marble, workers also are updating fountains, plumbing and electrical systems that date to the building's opening in 1935. In November 2005, marble molding fell from the facade over the entrance to the court, landing on the steps near visitors waiting to enter the building on a Monday morning. No one was hurt then, either. Chief Justice John Roberts made a joking reference to the 2005 incident when he spoke at Drake University's law school three years later. □

French authorities link a school stabbing that killed a teacher to Islamic extremism

By JOHN LEICESTER, JEFFREY SCHAEFFER and SAM PETRE-QUIN

Associated Press

ARRAS, France (AP) — A man of Chechen origin who was under surveillance by French security services over suspected Islamic radicalization stabbed a teacher to death at his former high school and wounded three other people Friday in northern France, authorities said.

France raised its threat alert to its highest level, and the attack was being investigated by anti-terrorism prosecutors amid soaring global tensions over the war between Israel and Hamas. It also happened almost three years after another teacher, Samuel Paty, was beheaded by a radicalized Chechen near a Paris area school.

The suspected attacker had been under surveillance since the summer on suspicion of Islamic radicalization, French intelligence services told The Associated Press. He was detained Thursday for questioning based on the monitoring of his phone calls in recent days, but investigators found no sign that he was preparing an attack, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said.

"There was a race against the clock. But there was no threat, no weapon, no indication. We did our job seriously," Darmanin said on TF1 television. French intelligence suggested a link between the war in the Middle East and the suspect's decision to attack, the minister said.

The suspect, identified by prosecutors as Mohamed M., was reportedly refusing to speak to investigators. Several others also were in custody Friday, national counterterrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said. Police said the suspect's younger brother was among those held for questioning.

President Emmanuel Macron said France had been "hit once again by the barbarity of Islamist terrorism."



Schoolchildren leave the Gambetta high school after a man armed with a knife killed a teacher and wounded two others in Arras, northern France, Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

Associated Press

"Nearly three years to the day after the assassination of Samuel Paty, terrorism has hit a school again and in a context that we're all aware of," Macron said at the site of the attack in Arras, a city 115 miles (185 kilometers) north of Paris.

A colleague and a fellow teacher identified the dead educator as Dominique Bernard, a French language teacher at the Gambetta-Carnot school, which enrolls students ages 11-18. The victim "stepped in and probably saved many lives" but two of the wounded — another teacher and a security guard — were fighting for theirs, according to Macron.

Authorities said the third person wounded worked as a cleaner at the school. The prosecutor said the alleged assailant was a former student there and repeatedly shouted "Allahu akbar," or "God is great" in Arabic during the attack. Police officer Sliman Hamzi was one of the first on the scene. Hamzi said he was alerted by another officer, rushed to the school and saw a male victim lying on the ground outside the school and the attacker being taken away. He said the victim had his throat slit. "I'm extremely shocked by what I saw," the officer said. "It was a horrible thing to see this poor man who

was killed on the job by a lunatic."

The National Police force identified the suspect in the attack as a Russian national of Chechen origin who was born in 2003. The French intelligence services told the AP he had been closely watched since the summer with tails and telephone surveillance and was stopped as recently as Thursday for a police check that found no wrongdoing. Friday's attack had echoes of Paty's slaying on Oct 16, 2020 — also a Friday — by an 18-year-old who had become radicalized. Like the suspect in Friday's stabbings, the earlier attacker had a Chechen background; police shot and killed him.

Martin Doussau, a philosophy teacher at Gambetta-Carnot, said the assailant was armed with two knives and appeared to be hunting specifically for a history teacher. Paty taught history and geography.

"I was chased by the attacker, who ... asked me if I teach history," said Doussau, who recounted how he barricaded himself behind a door until police used a stun gun to subdue the attacker. "When he turned around and asked me if I am a history teacher, I immediately thought of Samuel Paty."

The school went into lockdown, and some children

were held inside classrooms for hours while distraught parents gathered outside.

"My husband was in tears. There were a lot of people crying, a lot in a state of panic," said Céline Bourgeois, whose 15-year-old son, Louis, was inside.

Prosecutors said they were considering charges of terror-related murder and attempted murder against the suspect.

Macron visited the school, stopping for a moment before the blanket-covered body of the teacher, which was in the parking lot in front of the school, then met with students.

He said police thwarted an "attempted attack" in another region of France after the teacher's fatal stabbing. He did not provide details, but the Interior Ministry said he was referring to a man armed with a knife arrested coming out of a prayer hall in the Yvelines region west of Paris. The man's motives weren't immediately clear, police said.

School attacks are rare in France, and the government asked authorities to heighten vigilance at all schools across the country. The government also increased its threat alert to its highest level Friday, allowing for larger police and military deployments to protect the country. Darmanin said there was no specific

threat that prompted the move, but cited calls by extremists to attack amid the Mideast war.

He said authorities have detained 12 people near schools or places of worship since the Hamas attack on Israel last Saturday, some of whom were armed and were preparing to attack. France has heightened security at hundreds of Jewish sites around the country this week.

The suspect's telephone conversations in recent days gave no indication of an impending attack, leading intelligence officers to conclude that the assailant decided suddenly on Friday to act, intelligence services told the AP.

The suspect's father was expelled from France in 2018 for radicalism, the interior minister said.

An older brother is serving a 5-year prison term for terror offences. He was convicted this year of involvement in a plot for an armed attack around the presidential Elysee Palace in Paris that was thwarted by the intelligence services. Other members of the radical Islamist group were also jailed for up to 15 years. He was the group's only Chechen.

The older brother also was a former pupil at the high school targeted Friday, according to legal records from his trial earlier this year on terror-related charges. Investigation records show that during a school class in 2016 about freedom of expression, the older brother defended a terror attack in 2015 that killed 12 cartoonists at the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. Friday's attack came amid heightened tensions around the world over Hamas' attack on southern Israel and Israel's blistering military response, which have killed hundreds of civilians on both sides.

Darmanin on Thursday ordered local authorities to ban all pro-Palestinian demonstrations amid a rise in antisemitic acts. □

North Korea raises the specter of nuclear strike over U.S. aircraft carrier's arrival in South Korea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea lashed out Friday at the arrival of a U.S. aircraft carrier battle group in South Korea, calling it a provocation and again raising the specter of using nuclear weapons to defend itself.

Emboldened by its advancing nuclear arsenal, North Korea has increasingly issued threats to use such weapons preemptively. But the North is still outgunned by U.S. and South Korean forces, and experts say it is unlikely to use its nukes first, though it will continue to upgrade those arms without returning to diplomacy for the time being.

The North's latest nuclear threat came a day after the USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group arrived at South Korea's southeastern port of Busan, following U.S.-South Korean-Japanese naval exercise in international waters earlier this week.



U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan is escorted as it arrives in Busan, South Korea, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

South Korean defense officials said the carrier is to be docked at Busan for five days as part of an agreement to increase the temporary deployments of powerful U.S. military assets in response to the North's growing nuclear program. On Friday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency called the aircraft carrier's arrival "an undisguised military provocation" that proves a U.S. plan to attack North Korea

is being realized. It threatened to respond in line with its escalatory nuclear doctrine that authorizes the preemptive use of nuclear weapons.

"The (North Korean) doctrine on the use of nuclear weapons already opened to public allows the execution of necessary action procedures in case a nuclear attack is launched against it or it is judged that the use of nuclear weapons against it is imminent,"

the KCNA dispatch said.

North Korea's "most powerful and rapid first strike will be given to the 'extended deterrence' means, used by the U.S. to hallucinate its followers, and the bases of evil in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity," KCNA added.

North Korea has argued it was forced to develop nuclear weapons to cope with what it calls the U.S. and South Korean plots to invade. It has often responded furiously to the deployment of U.S. strategic assets such as aircraft carriers, long-range bombers and nuclear-powered submarines, as well as U.S. joint training exercises with South Korean forces.

Many experts say North Korea heightens tensions with its rivals to provide a pretext for expanding its nuclear arsenal and then uses the arms as leverage to wrest greater outside concessions.

Since last year, North Korea has conducted more than

100 missile tests in the name of responding to the expanded U.S.-South Korean military drills. Washington and Seoul say their drills are defensive in nature.

Last year, North Korea adopted a law that stipulates a broad range of situations in which it can use nuclear weapons, including when it determines that its leadership faces imminent attack by hostile forces or when it needs to prevent an unspecified catastrophic crisis to its people and government.

The U.S. and South Korean governments have repeatedly warned that any attempt by North Korea to use nuclear weapons would result in the end of the North's government led by Kim Jong Un.

On Friday, North Korea also accused the U.S. of being behind what it calls "a groundless and false rumor" that Hamas used North Korean weapons in its recent attack on Israel. □

EU can't reach decision on prolonging the use of chemical herbicide glyphosate

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — A European Union decision on whether to authorize the use of the controversial chemical herbicide glyphosate in the 27-nation bloc for at least 10 more years was delayed for a month after member countries failed to agree on Friday.

The chemical, which is widely used in the 27-nation bloc, is approved on the EU market until mid-December.

Representatives of the EU's executive arm and member countries voted Friday in favor of renewing its authorization until 2033, despite protests from environmental groups.

But to be adopted, the 10-year extension proposed by the European Commission required a "qualified

majority," defined as 55% of the 27 members representing at least 65% of the total EU population of some 450 million people. Several member states abstained, and that was not achieved. The European Commission is now expected to amend its proposal before another vote takes place next month. Ultimately, if no consensus is found, the Commission will have the final say.

Green members of the European Parliament welcomed the delay and urged member states to vote for a complete ban of glyphosate.

"It is irresponsible to again renew the authorization of the use of glyphosate," said Bas Eickhout, the vice-chair of the Parliament's environment committee. "This would give the big agri a blank check to earn bil-



Containers of Roundup sit on a store shelf on Feb. 24, 2019, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

lions by selling a pesticide for which there are still big gaps in knowledge about the effects on our health, and at the same time poses large risks for European biodiversity."

Over the past decade, glyphosate, used in products like the weedkiller Roundup, has been at the

heart of heated scientific debate about whether it causes cancer and its possible disruptive effect on the environment. The chemical was introduced by Monsanto in 1974 as an effective way of killing weeds while leaving crops and plants intact.

The France-based Interna-

tional Agency for Research on Cancer, which is part of the World Health Organization, classified it as a "probable human carcinogen" in 2015. The EU's food safety agency had paved the way for the 10-year extension when it said in July it "did not identify critical areas of concern" in the use of glyphosate.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found in 2020 that the herbicide did not pose a health risk to people, but a federal appeals court in California ordered the agency last year to reexamine that ruling, saying it wasn't supported by enough evidence. EU member states are responsible for authorizing the use of products including the chemical on their national markets, following a safety evaluation. □

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can



also find pastechis and krokets at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors

carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-



based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Lessons from our elders:

Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat



too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest.



Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegran-

ates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

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Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at the Marriott Surf Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. This lovely lady was honored with a certificate acknowledging her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:
Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba
Mrs. Renie Canova Sarango from Lima, Perú.



Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Marriott Surf Club bestowed the certificate to the honoree, presented her with memorable gifts, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her best-loved vacation destination, and as her home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree were:

- The Marriot property in Aruba.
- Aruba's beaches and sun.
- "Friends I have made over the years."
- Aruba's food.
- Aruba's nightlife and shopping.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

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Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished



ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable

journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and

hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wet-



lands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island.



Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it!

Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Playa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. This lovely couple was honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor	(10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador	(20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador	(35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba
Mr. Richard & Mrs. Tina Mer-

lino from New York, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Playa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning

to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's warm consistent weather and nice sandy beaches.
- Aruba's warm and friendly people.
- Aruba's food.
- Aruba's cleanliness and safety.
- "Things to Do."
- Aruba's safety.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and ap-

preciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden



To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from

horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many re-



peated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves



Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the

natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour



A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

Go for a shopping spree in the city center



Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a va-

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who



often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterrella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.



The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and

literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Breaks, perhaps
 - 1 Title holder
 - 6 Hand makeup
 - 11 Cruise vessel
 - 12 La Scala offering
 - 13 Supplement

- DOWN**
- 14 New Jersey player
 - 15 Handles
 - 17 Genesis name
 - 18 Reggae's kin
 - 19 Concert extras
 - 22 Yang's counterpart
 - 23 Hot
 - 24 Flea market unit
 - 25 State as true
 - 27 Tree flow
 - 30 Comic that debuted in 1930
 - 31 Memorable time
 - 32 Enter the race
 - 33 Film awards
 - 35 City on the Missouri

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E	N	D	E	D		O	R	D	E	R

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Esteem
- 9 Motivated
- 10 Company division
- 16 Smallest Great Lake
- 20 Like some wills
- 21 Outmoded
- 24 Taxpayer's ID
- 25 Reunion group
- 26 Bach piece
- 27 Mariner
- 28 Collar
- 29 Goes by
- 30 Expansive
- 34 Have concerns
- 36 Brood
- 37 Simile

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10-14

AXYDIBAA XR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

R N S N P J F M R Z M V T I J ' S G R F F .
S U M W G F W . S U M W S R A M
S U M X Y S X P M R J T D R I T M Y I J
S U X V S U M X Y I J F W H U R J H M S I
V I R Y . — T M F X R I D M J V

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NO MATTER WHAT, NOBODY CAN TAKE AWAY THE DANCES YOU'VE ALREADY HAD. GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ

The power dynamic in labor has shifted and pickets are seemingly everywhere. But for how long?



Advocates for a union for Starbucks employees watch as company founder Howard Schultz leaves a hearing after testifying to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee at the Capitol in Washington on March 29, 2023.

Associated Press

By W. GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — From auto production lines to Hollywood, the power of labor unions is back in the national spotlight. But despite historic strikes and record contract negotiations this year, there's a lot stacked against labor organizers today. Union membership rates have been falling for decades due to changes in the U.S. economy, employer opposition, growing political partisanship and legal challenges.

"Even though we're seeing stronger support for unions, (with) the highest popularity of union favorability in polls since at least 1960s, translating the worker desire for representation into actual representation is really hard under our current system," Alexander Colvin, dean of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, told The Associated Press.

WHAT'S DRIVING UNION ACTIVITY NOW?

At least 457,000 workers have participated in 315 strikes in the U.S. just this year, according to Johnnie Kallas, a Ph.D. candidate and the project director of Cornell University's Labor Action Tracker.

The strikes have led to more than 7.4 million days of missed work in 2023, S&P Global Market Intelligence said, the highest level in almost a quarter century. Labor activism is reaching a boiling point amid soaring costs of living and rising inequality, particularly the growing pay gap between workers and top executives. Those inequities only became more glaring during the COVID-19 pandemic as U.S. corporations raked in record profits.

"It's kind of a perfect storm, (so) you see a lot of union movement these days," said Eunice Han, an assistant professor at the University of Utah specializing in labor economics.

The tightest U.S. labor market in decades is adding to leverage workers feel they

have to challenge their employers.

The unemployment rate in the U.S. is close to 50-year lows and there are now about 1.5 open jobs for every unemployed person, according to recent government data.

In August, American employers posted a shocking 9.6 million job openings, far exceeding the expectations of economists in and out of the U.S. Federal Reserve, which has been attempting to cool the labor market with a string of interest rate hikes.

Open jobs means American workers are quitting in higher numbers because they are confident of landing a better paying job.

The unemployment rate in September and August was 3.8%, further signaling leverage for workers.

UNION RATES HAVE BEEN FALLING FOR DECADES. WHY?

While pickets lines seem to be everywhere, union membership rates have been declining for decades. Only 6% of private U.S. sector workers belong to unions today, a sliver of the 35% that were union members in 1953.

Todd Vachon, an assistant professor in the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, points to the post-World War II Taft-Hartley Act, which restricted the power of labor unions — as well as factors like relocating manufacturing jobs overseas and an uptick in anti-union stances from both employers and lawmakers that grew in the 70s and 80s.

Vachon notes one pivotal moment in particular, when President Ronald Reagan fired all striking air traffic controllers in 1981.

"That sent a really clear signal to the business community that it's a-okay to be completely anti-union and to be so in a very belligerent way, because even the president of the United States is doing it," he said. □

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Warming and habitat loss shrink pollinator numbers That may hit coffee, cocoa crops hard in future

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

Changes in the climate and land use are combining to dramatically shrink the numbers of insects pollinating key tropical crops. As those problems interwine and intensify, it likely will hit coffee lovers right in the mug, according to a new study.

And that one-two punch will melt some chocolate fans' dreams too, scientists said.

Scientists looked at thousands of species and sites and found when temperatures warmed up beyond the normal range combined with a shrinking habitat of flowering plants, the number of insects that pollinate those plants plummets by 61%, according to a study in Thursday's Science Advances. Study authors said bees, flies, moths and other pollinators are being hit harder than the general insect population.

"We're seeing the climate change is already having this really strong impact on pollinators," said study co-author Tim Newbold, an ecologist at the University College of London.

About 35% of the world's food crop and three-quarters of flowering plants depend on insect and other animal pollinators to reproduce, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And the study found the pollinator loss problem is bigger in the tropics, a region other research hasn't focused on as much. The countries most at risk of crop loss from dwindling pollinators are China, India, Indonesia, Brazil and the Philippines with sub-Saharan Africa also in danger, especially its cocoa and mango crops, the study said.

Taking what's already happened, researchers said this bodes badly for key tropical crops, especially coffee and cocoa. Those plants rely on bees and flies to help them reproduce and fewer pollinators mean reduced crops, study authors said.



Bees hover over flowers in bloom at the Mughal gardens, in New Delhi, India, Feb. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

Previous studies have shown that insects are dwindling for several reasons, including climate change and habitat loss, and other studies have shown shrinking number of pollinators, and yet more have shown coffee and cocoa plants themselves are hurt by the interaction. But the sum of all that is even worse than just the parts, study authors said.

"There will be this double hit of climate change impacting coffee itself, the coffee plants, but also impacting the pollinators on which it depends so that's quite worrying for those of us who like coffee," Newbold said. That doesn't mean no coffee or chocolate, just more expensive indulgences, said study lead author Joe Millard, a computational

ecologist at the Natural History Museum in London.

What makes this study special is that it has a focus on the tropics that other insect studies haven't had, said University of Delaware entomologist Douglas Tallamy, who wasn't part of the research.

"We're not paying enough attention to the tropics," Tallamy said. "They are important."

Newbold said pollinating insects in the tropics are likely hit harder than other places because the bugs are already near their temperature limits and insects in temperate areas are more adapted to large temperature swings and they aren't in the tropics.

"Massive warming in the tropics is pushing those species over the edge," New-

bold said.

Habitat loss is the main driver for the shrinking number of pollinators with less food for them, Millard said. But add to that climate change, worsening parasites and disease and pesticides, he said. And while all insects are in trouble, pollinators have it worse in warmer temperatures and scientists are still trying to come up with explanations for why.

It could be because they have hairier legs and bodies that help them carry pollen, Millard and Newbold said.

It's like "being forced to have a big furry coat and it's it's getting hot," Newbold said.

Delaware's Tallamy doesn't buy that explanation. He said the study is good in its data and projections, but he said the authors' explanation for why these impacts happen is more in the guessing range. □



Editor

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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figueroa

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday



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Analysis: Injuries to key NFL players are piling up, making depth even more important

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL's injured reserve is starting to look like an All-Pro or Pro Bowl roster.

Vikings superstar wide receiver Justin Jefferson and Bills linebacker Matt Milano along with Dolphins breakout rookie De'Von Achane, Colts rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson, Cowboys linebacker Leighton Vander Esch, Cardinals running back James Conner and Jets tackle Alijah Vera-Tucker joined a growing list this week that includes Aaron Rodgers and many others.

Dolphins cornerback Jalen Ramsey and left tackle Terron Armstead, Steelers defensive tackle Cameron Heyward, Cardinals safety Budda Baker, Browns running back Nick Chubb, Packers left tackle David Bakhtiari and Cowboys cornerback Trevon Diggs are among the star players already on IR.

Chubb, Bakhtiari and Diggs are out until 2024. Ramsey was injured in training camp and hopes to return this season. Armstead, Heyward and Baker also should be back.

The list doesn't count Giants Pro Bowl running back Saquon Barkley, Bengals franchise quarterback Joe Burrow or Browns QB



New York Giants safety Isaiah Simmons (19) grabs Miami Dolphins running back De'Von Achane (28) before Achane fumbled the ball during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

Deshaun Watson. Barkley wasn't placed on IR but has missed three games with an ankle injury. Burrow hasn't sat out any games but he was severely limited by a calf injury in the first month. Watson is expected to miss his second straight games with a bruised throwing shoulder.

The NFL is a tough, physical sport. Injuries are common. Sometimes the worst injuries even occur without any contact. Going deep in the playoffs isn't just about having the most talent but staying healthy.

It's only Week 6 and injuries are piling up for key players around the league.

Jefferson's hamstring injury

is a big blow for Minnesota (1-4). The Vikings have already matched their loss total from last season and need to get back on the winning track with no margin for error. They've got to find a way without the 2022 AP Offensive Player of the Year for at least four weeks. "Knowing we might not have him for a stretch here, we've got to change the way we look at it and we've got to get back to making sure that we have sound plays versus the looks we think we're going to get," Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell said on SiriusXM radio.

"Give our guys, our play-makers, which we feel like

we have plenty even losing the best receiver in football, we still are really excited about Jordan Addison. K.J. Osborn's been ultra consistent, T.J. Hockenson, there's a reason why he's here, and we'll continue to build things on all downs to keep him involved, and then how does C.J. Ham or Josh Oliver, Johnny Mundt or Brandon Powell, how do those guys fit in their complementary roles, where they can really, really see some premier opportunities?"

Buffalo (3-2) is reeling from losing Milano, defensive tackle DaQuan Jones and cornerback Tre'Davious White in the past two weeks. Milano, coming off his best season, and Jones, who was off to an excellent start, both were hurt in a loss to the Jaguars last week in London.

The Bills say Milano (lower right leg) and Jones (torn pectoral muscle) are out indefinitely. White is done for the season with a torn right Achilles tendon.

"You never 'replace' a player," Bills coach Sean McDermott said. "And I don't want to get into comparing players, I don't think that's healthy. Overall, it's the responsibility of the person stepping in to do the job, and we have full con-

fidence in that player — whoever that player is."

Miami (4-1) loses Achane to a knee injury for several weeks just as Jeff Wilson gets ready to return from injured reserve to help fill his spot along with Raheem Mostert. Achane leads the NFL with an average of 12.1 yards per carry, and he's second in yards rushing with 460.

"I never really look at the run game in general as one player," Dolphins coach Mike McDaniels said. "He's been making a ton of plays and has been obviously doing an outstanding job with every single one of his opportunities. We're in a fortunate situation in that regard, that I think we have multiple players at the running back position that can start in this league and can do very well within their job parameters here with the Dolphins."

Vander Esch's neck injury may impact the way Dallas (3-2) plays its defense. All-Pro edge rusher Micah Parsons could play more off the ball to help fill the void. Conner will miss several weeks for the Cardinals (1-4) with a knee injury. The Colts (3-2) won't have Richardson, the dynamic No. 4 overall pick, for a while and perhaps longer if he has surgery. □

Boxer Claressa Shields, basketball player Natalie Schneider win Sportswoman of the Year awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxer Claressa Shields and basketball player Natalie Schneider won the Sportswoman of the Year awards at the Women's Sports Foundation's annual dinner.

Shields, a two-time Olympic gold medalist, won in the individual category, while Schneider, a three-time Paralympic medalist, won in the team event at the Salute to Women in Sports on Thursday night.

Billie Jean King and nearly 1,000 attendees celebrated the 50th anniversary of equal prize money at the

U.S. Open and her victory over Bobby Riggs in the "Battle of the Sexes" match in 1973. Julie Foudy and LaChina Robinson hosted the 49th annual event at Cipriani Wall Street.

"We must always challenge and strive to change the status quo," King said. "I am encouraged to see this year's honorees who are breaking records, eliminating barriers and empowering future generations to keep playing."

Stacey Allaster, the first female tournament director at the U.S. Open and for-



Boxer Claressa Shields poses with her prize belts after an interview, Tuesday, May 30, 2023, in Detroit.

Associated Press

mer CEO of the WTA, received the Billie Jean King

Leadership Award.

Rosalie Fish was honored with the Wilma Rudolph Courage Award. Fish, a long-distance runner at the University of Washington, is a member of the Cowlitz tribe. She advocates for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

The Champions for Equality Award went to Jon Patricof and Jonathan Soros. They are the co-founders of Athletes Unlimited, which provides professional women's sports opportunities in basketball, softball, volleyball and lacrosse. □

Deep in the heart of Texas, Astros and Rangers set for Lone Star showdown for spot in World Series

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Everything is certainly bigger deep in the heart of Texas this baseball postseason, with a Lone Star State showdown for a spot in the World Series.

Defending world champion Houston is no stranger to playing long into October, now getting ready for its seventh consecutive American League Championship Series. This time, the Astros play the up-and-coming Texas Rangers, who led them in the AL West standings for most of the season but again didn't fare well in the head-to-head matchups.

Both benches and bullpens cleared the last time the two teams played in Houston, where the ALCS opener will be played Sunday night.

"There's a lot of intensity. ... I'd say we're rivals," first-year Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said Thursday. "That's the way baseball should be, I guess. They're your opponent, so I don't think it should be a lovefest out there."

Especially with so much at stake when the in-state rivals meet in the playoffs for the first time.

This will be only the 10th postseason series featuring teams from the same



Houston Astros catcher Martin Maldonado and Texas Rangers' Adolis Garcia, second from right, argue as the benches clear following Garcia's grand slam during the fifth inning of a baseball game July 26, 2023, in Houston.

Associated Press

state in baseball's divisional era (since 1969). It will be the first outside of California since the New York Mets and New York Yankees played in the 2000 World Series, which was a year before the Astros and Rangers had even met in a regular-season game.

Hall of Fame strikeout king Nolan Ryan pitched for both teams, finishing his career with the Rangers and later was part of the ownership group for their only World Series and ALCS appearances in 2010 and 2011. Their respective 40,000-seat retractable-roof stadiums are about 250 miles apart — Minute Maid Park in Houston opened in 2000, and Globe Life Field is in its fourth season.

Houston's Dusty Baker and Bochy are the winningest active managers, both with more than 2,000 wins in 26 seasons managing in the big leagues. Bochy won three World Series titles with the San Francisco Giants and Baker finally got his first championship last season. "Now me and Bruce Bochy need to battle," the 74-year-old Baker said. "I know Bruce and he knows me."

They have gone head-to-head 214 times. Their only playoff meeting was the 2012 NLDS that Bochy's Giants won in five games over Baker's Cincinnati Reds. Houston has dominated the AL West since the Rangers won the division in 2016, their last winning sea-

son before this year. The Astros have since been to the World Series four times, winning two of them, and the only time without a division title was the abbreviated 60-game regular season during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when as a wild-card team they lost a seven-game ALCS to Tampa Bay.

"They are the reigning champions, so you have to give them a respect for that," Rangers catcher-designated hitter Mitch Garver said. "I'd say we have equally as good a chance to win as they did." Texas led the AL West for 148 of the first 149 days this season, and 159 overall. But when the Rangers lost at Seattle on the final day of the regular season, a day after clinching a playoff spot, and Houston won to match them at 90 wins, the Astros had another division title and a first-round playoff bye.

"A lot of people were wondering what it was gonna be like if the 'Stros didn't win the division," third baseman Alex Bregman said at the start of their champagne celebration after the regular-season finale. "I guess we'll never know." The Rangers became a wild card and had to fly across the country — going over North Texas on the way —

before sweeping the AL's winningest teams from the regular season, Tampa Bay and Baltimore.

Houston, which won its ALDS over Minnesota in four games, had the division tiebreaker because of its 9-4 record against the Rangers this year. The Astros had clinched the season series even before their obliterating three-game sweep with 16 homers and 39 runs in Arlington from Sept. 4-6. That is the only time they have played since the benches cleared July 26, after the Astros won the previous two nights to move within a game of the division lead. Yordan Alvarez got hit by a pitch right after Bregman homered in the first inning of that series finale, and Texas second baseman Marcus Semien took a retaliatory plunk in the third. Semien hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the fourth, and exchanged words with catcher Martin Maldonado. An inning later, Semien scored on a grand slam by Adolis Garcia, who was face-to-face with the catcher when the benches cleared, though no punches were thrown. "It's a heated rivalry. I understand why there's some animosity," Rangers first baseman Nathaniel Lowe said. □

Kylian Mbappé scores 2 as France beats Netherlands 2-1 to qualify for European Championship

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Kylian Mbappé helped France seal qualification for next year's European Championship by scoring twice in a 2-1 win over the Netherlands on Friday for a perfect sixth win in Group B.

There had been talk before Friday's match at the Johan Cruyff Arena of the 24-year-old France captain being out of form after failing to score in four matches for Paris Saint-Germain, but international duty quickly put an end to the goal drought.

Mbappé opened the scor-

ing in just the seventh minute when he beat Lutsharel Geertruida to a cross from the right by Jonathan Clauss to volley past Brighton goalkeeper Bert Verbruggen, who was making his debut for the Netherlands.

It was Mbappé's 41st international goal, drawing him level with France great Michel Platini. France's all-time top scorer, Olivier Giroud, came off the bench in the second half but could not add to his 54 goals.

Mbappé doubled the lead in the 53rd minute when



France's Kylian Mbappe, right, scores his side's opening goal during the Euro 2024 group B qualifying soccer match between The Netherlands and France at the Johan Cruyff Arena stadium in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

Associated Press

he exchanged passes with Adrien Rabiot on the edge

of the Netherlands' penalty area before curling a shot

over Verbruggen.

Feyenoord midfielder Quilindschy Hartman, in his first full international appearance, made it 2-1 with 10 minutes to go when he beat Mike Maignan at the France goalkeeper's near post. It was the first goal World Cup runner-up France had conceded in the qualifying group.

The Netherlands' second defeat to France in qualifying left it in third place behind Greece, which beat Ireland 2-0 Friday to move up to second. □

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